

THE AGAWAM

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Agawam's Weekly Hometown Newspaper

April 18, 1978



Participants in the Youth Center Paper Recycling are, left to right, Madeline Ares, Debra Aurichio, George Schaler [Youth Center Director], Lewis Hurd [Youth Director of Recycling Program], and Jim Lagomarsino [Youth Center Program Coordinator] photo by Jack Devine

The Agawam Youth Center

The Agawam Youth Center is a town department, funded by town money. Operating on a present budget of \$22,000, the center employs a full time director, George Schaler; a full time program coordinator, Jim Lagomarsino; a full time CETA secretary, Celine Champagne of Agawam; and a part time staff of approximately ten people.

The Agawam Citizens Organization is the founding agency of the Youth Center and for the past seven years has pushed to keep such a center alive in Agawam. The Agawam Youth Commission, a state legislated body, oversees the Center's operation. The Board of Directors are: Charles Brantley, chairperson; Pat Affleck, vice-chairperson; Karen Delsky, secretary-clerk; Kenneth Mageau, treasurer; and Richard Merchant, a Youth Commission member. There are currently two openings on the Board and any dedicated Agawam resident who wants to get involved with the youth of the town is urged to apply.

The Agawam Youth Center operated under

various names throughout its stormy seven year history. Most of the previous operations were of the "drop-in" type, and most had little success. When George Schaler, now Director of the Center, first began his career in April, 1975, he was working at the "End of the Line" center in Feeding Hills. However, being a drop-in center, the End of the Line encountered problems when youths would drop in and "literally tear the place apart" taking out their frustrations on the walls and equipment. The End of the Line was moved to a temporary office on Springfield Street, and then to its present location in the Hollow Pine Shopping Center on Springfield Street in Feeding Hills.

With the change in location came a change in name - to the Agawam Youth Center - and a change in format. The Youth Center is now a 'storefront' operation as most of the activities are held out of doors and or outside of Agawam. The Center now provides "therapeutic recreational activities for kids who exhibit behavioral or adjustment problems." The

Center offers supportive services and has a mixture of kids with and without problems.

The Agawam Youth Center is not a drop-in center, but an activity program designed to help youths interact with each other and with society in general in a rational and acceptable manner. Schaler stated that "the Center's program is maintained for and by the interests of the kids...and tries to fulfill their needs."

To this end, there are two groups into which the participants are divided: the Junior group (ages 5-11) and the Senior group (ages 12-18). The Junior group now has thirty eight members, and the Senior group has fifty eight members. Participants interrelate with one another and with the staff. This allows for "continuous, informal counseling" when needed. Crisis intervention, vocational, family, and individual counseling are also available through the Center.

There are four basic kinds of activities incorporated in the Youth Center program: general activities, wilder-

ness activities, a recycling program, and a youth-staff training program.

The general activities include trips and activities which are described as fun activities. The trips are co-ed and are both local and distant. They take place after school, evenings, weekends, and holidays. One such trip was a trip to Disneyworld over the February school vacation. Another Disney World trip is planned as is a trip to Montreal for the winter olympics in 1979. Local trips might include those to museums, movies, bowling, roller skating, etc.

The wilderness activities are travel experiences that provide "the medium for the participants to live in the wilderness environment, work together for the group and themselves, learn discipline and understand direction and develop survival skills."

The Agawam Recycling Program, sponsored by the Agawam Citizens Organization, Inc., is an independent program of collecting paper. It is staffed by participants in the Youth Center program and

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Charter Commission Offers 3 Choices

At the Charter Commission meeting held on April 12, 1978, a motion was made by Kenneth Barnes to place the three choices on the ballot to let the citizens of Agawam decide on the type of government would be in Agawam's future. The three choices are:

1. To retain the present Council-Manager form of government and to keep the present charter with significant changes.
2. To have a form of government under which the top administrative official is elected.

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Agawam Businessmen's Association: A Rebuttal

The recent zoning confrontation of Agawam must be carefully scrutinized from a legal and economic standpoint.

The Agawam Business Association would like to address themselves in the ensuing months to the new proposal by the Agawam Planning Board, including proposed changes in presently zoned Business property to Residential use only, and new procedures to acquire permits, that would take a maximum of 155 days to secure a permit. This wait to secure a permit could in effect be a moratorium on the construction of all types of property.

On June 30, 1978, the New Zoning Enabling Act 40A will take effect. All local zoning ordinances and bylaws must conform to this state law by June 30, 1978.

Therefore, the first question is, does the Town of Agawam need a major revision of its

zoning ordinances and bylaws to conform to state law? The answer to this question is "no". The ordinance and bylaws of the Town of Agawam only need minimal minor changes to conform. At the meeting between the Agawam Businessmen's Association and the Agawam Planning Board, the Chairperson of the Planning Board, (Mrs. George) was asked if the new proposed ordinances, bylaws and map were all necessary to conform to state law. She agreed they were not necessary, to do so. More startling is the fact, that according to state law, once notice of a public hearing is given, all permits issued after such notice must comply with the proposed ordinances which the notice concerns. The Town would be in limbo as to which bylaws to adhere to - old or new, until final acceptance or rejection by the Town council.

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Agawam High School's Foreign Exchange students this year are Paulo, left, and Miyaki. photo by Jack Devine

AFS Seeks Families

The Agawam AFS Chapter is once again in the process of selecting families to host foreign exchange students in their homes.

Hosting a student offers each family a ten month experience in International Relations without leaving town. The student will live with the family and attend classes at Agawam High School. As a host family you will acquire new perspective about another culture, experience the fun of new friendships and help a student discover America.

Both Paulo, from Brazil, whose host family are the Jose Vasquez's, and Miyako from Japan, whose host family are the Richard Brindles are most anxious to speak with any family who is interested in hosting an AFS student.

Please don't deny you and your family this unique experience. Contact Mrs. Richard Brindle, host family chairperson, and she will set up appointments for your interview. Agawam AFS needs you!

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Agawam Businessmen's Association: A Rebuttal

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Emphasis must then be placed on the elements that constitute the new planning board proposals. First, the planning board proposes a new zoning map, which they publicly stated has errors and is not perfect. Also, they publicly stated they would try to correct such errors on the map. However, the problems of the map are coupled with major proposed changes in our zoning ordinances and bylaws. These ordinances and bylaws will govern the everyday procedural rights of the citizens. But, legally the magnitude of the new proposals are not necessary to conform to state law.

These changes of map, ordinances and bylaws could effect the constitutional rights of our citizens and the future tax revenue of our town. The Planning Board states tax revenue will not be lost by their new proposal. The future of Agawam for the next 50-100 years should not be based on promises, but instead should be based on

concrete facts. The new changes in zoning could cause undue hardship to owners of presently zoned business property and could seriously effect the Town's tax structure by removing many business properties from the present tax status and placing them in residential zones which enjoy lower assessments. This may increase the burden on the homeowner, who could suffer the worst of the consequences.

Lastly, in the Planning Board policy statement, the planning board really said, that services must be planned within the ability of the tax rate. This is a negative approach. A positive approach should be to plan for business growth and encourage it so more tax revenue can be raised to increase services for our future citizens. We must increase tax revenue or else our children in future years may not be able to afford to live in the Town of Agawam.

Enrollment Decrease Distresses School Board

by Dan Maruszczak Jr.

Agawam School Committee officials will meet on Tuesday night, April 18th to discuss the problems of declining registration in the town schools, after approving several interim proposals reviewed for the coming school year.

The decline would mean an estimated 600 students absent from the school system by the year 1983. This would also mean a lay-off of teachers, while there are no immediate plans for a cutback next year.

Presently, an estimated six area schools were forced to lay-off faculty members because of the decreasing enrollment, and more are forecasted for next year.

Superintendent of Schools, Ernest J. Cannava, expects that if proposals are passed now, there won't be the problems of cutting faculty members in the town.

Business Director James Coon predicted that the average classroom will be decreased to 25 students in the future if a proposal isn't developed in the near future.

He also pointed out that most schools in Agawam have proved to be able to operate "effectively" with under 29 students. The situation would become dangerous if the classes would be forced to operate

with under 25 students, which what is most School Committee members fear might happen.

One of Coon's solutions to the problem is to form a special committee made up of the School Committee, the Planning Board, the Town Council, and various parents in the town. The group would consist of nine members to solve the problem, and also to plan their own proposals to combat the possibility of the decline.

The School Committee rejected this plan, as they insisted that they retain all rights in governing the School Department's policies.

Feeling the aftermath of the decrease in enrollment are students from Granger School and Danahy. A fifth grade class from Granger, and a kindergarten class from Danahy were transferred to the Robinson Park School, which has lately been struggling in its registration of students.

Mrs. Vanetta Snyder, School Committee chairman, is expected to meet with Supt. Cannava and Business Director Coon to discuss the problem and make recommendations for a proposal, which will be brought up at the committee's next meeting.

Agawam Youth Center

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the money earned is used to subsidize their activity costs. This subsidy ensures participation for those who would otherwise not be able to be involved, since the town does not pay activity costs. Anyone having paper to be collected (a stack at least five feet high) should call the Youth Center for an appointment.

The Youth-Staff training program was developed to train a core of volunteers who originated from within the program, and to provide vocational training and education in the field of Recreational Leadership.

In addition to these four regular activities, the Center has instituted a vocational training program. They are presently trying to get three CETA funded counselors who would help the participants by arranging apprenticeship-type programs with local businesses.

The Youth Center has a contract with the Drug Abuse Foundation who reimburses the Center for money spent in providing activities for kids who have been on drugs.

The Youth Center is available to all residents of Agawam between the ages of 5 and 18. Those wishing to participate may contact the Center themselves (telephone 786-1280). The Center also receives referrals from the schools and the police department. Schaler said that the Center works closely with Safety Officer Stanely Chmielewski.

A calendar of events is always posted in the window of the Youth Center, and any one wishing to participate in various activities need only sign up for them. Participation in activities is on a first come-first served basis, and according to Director Schaler, the events, scheduled by the kids themselves, are all very popular.

Schaler said that the community must realize the importance if this endeavor and the success it has achieved. He urged residents to support the Center by indicating to the Town Council (via their Councilors) the need for the Youth Center and its continued funding and growth.

UNICO Pancake Breakfast

The Agawam Chapter of UNICO will hold a Pancake Breakfast on May 21, 1978 at the Agawam Middle School, 100 Main Street. Paul

D'Amato is general chairman of the event and proceeds will be used for the benefit of the Chapter's mental health program.

The breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Other upcoming events of the Chapter will be their scholarship and installation dinner on June 14th at Chez Josef, and their annual chicken Bar-B-Q to be held on July 30th at the Polish American Club, Southwick Street, Feeding Hills. Keep these dates open!

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Top Round Steak Roast	\$1.99/lb.

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CORNER BEEF BRISKET

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WITH \$10 PURCHASE COUPON GOOD THROUGH APRIL 22, 1978

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12 oz. Non-Returnable Bottles

NATIONAL 12 oz. N/R's \$4⁸⁹ case **PIEL'S LIGHT** 12 oz. N/R's \$5⁰⁰ case
LUCKY LAGER 12 oz. N/R's \$4³⁹ case **BALLANTINE DRAFT** 12 oz. N/R's \$4⁴⁹ case

12 oz. Cans

BALLANTINE 12 oz. cans \$5⁹⁵ case **FALSTAFF** 12 oz. cans \$5²⁵ case
SCHAEFER 12 oz. cans \$5⁹⁵ case **PIEL'S REAL DRAFT** 12 oz. cans \$4⁵⁹ case
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CALIFORNIA WINES

CARLO ROSSI

BURGUNDY • VIN ROSE • CHABLIS
PINK CHABLIS • LIGHT CHIANTI • RHINE

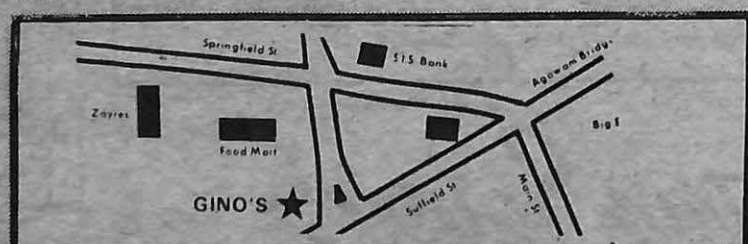
\$3⁹⁵ gal. \$2²⁵ ½ gal. 99¢ 4/5

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MON.-SAT., 8 TO 11

VISIT

GINO'S HANDY MART
BREAD • ROLLS • GROCERIES
SODA • JUICES • MILK
ICE CREAM • GROCERIES



Charter Commission

cont. from pg. 1

3. To accept the present Council-Manager form of government and the charter as is, without change.

The vote was 5-3 in favor of the motion. Voting in the affirmative were: Kenneth Barnes, Walter T. Kerr, Benjamin Lockhart, Fred Drew, and Barbara Skolnick. Voting against were: Andrew Gallano, Edmund Coffey, and Arthur Kerr. Julio Alvirini was absent.

An admendment to

Banres' motion by Fred Drew to place a forth choice on the ballot - that of a selectman-town meeting form of government, was defeated.

At Wednesday's meeting, the Commission also voted to replace the fifteen member Town Council, where two councilors are elected from each district, and three are elected at-large, to a nine member council totally elected at-large.

Obituaries

Lucille Kerr

Lucille (Perry) Kerr, 80, of 886 Main Street, widow of William Kerr, died Thursday in Baystate Medical Center, Springfield. Born in Springfield, she lived in Agawam 40 years and was a communicant of St. Theresa Church and a member of the Agawam Senior Citizens Club. She leaves two daughters, Rita Richardson and Arline Corea, both of Agawam; three sisters, Marion Mercadante of Agawam, Lee Searlman of Springfield and Rose DeGavin of Avon, Conn.; a granddaughter and three great-grandchildren. The funeral was held Saturday, April 15 at Curran-Jones Funeral Home and in the church with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Albina D. Geoffrion

Albina D. (Bascom) Geoffrion 93, of 120 Edgewater Road, widow of Louis J. Geoffrion, died Tuesday, April 11, in a local nursing home. A lifelong resident, she was a communicant of St. Therese Church. She leaves two sons, Raymond L. of Springfield and Roland E. of Agawam; a daughter, Dorothy L. Nacewicz, with whom she made her home; five grandchildren; and 9 great-grandchildren. The funeral was held Thursday, April 13, at Toomey-O'Brien Funeral Home, West Springfield and in St. Therese Church, Agawam, with burial in St. Thomas Cemetery, West Springfield. Donations may be made to the American Heart Association.



Girl Scout leaders attending the recent Ecumenical Sunday Services at Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills are from left: Dorothy Golemo, Troop #125; Leslie Pirnie, Troop #61; Tom Pirnie, Troop #61; Betty Maloney, Troop #61 and Carol Pignatere, Troop #547.

photo by Jack Devine

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Business Profile:

Feeding Hills Hardware

Village Shops

Billed as "the little store with the big inventory", the Feeding Hills Hardware is just that. Owned and operated by Frances and Fred Serra, Feeding Hills Hardware is a little over five years old. The Serra family, however, traces back in Agawam for over seventy-five years.



Fred Serra

Active about town, Fred Serra is on a busy schedule: the store is open 9 to 8 Monday through Friday and 8 to 5 on Saturday. Around this busy and demanding schedule, Fred finds time to act as Notary Public and also serve his first term on the Agawam Town Council, representing Precinct 4. Attending the various meetings and workshops to participate in town government, Fred is fortunate to have the business run as a family affair. Recently, even son Tony, 14, has shown an interest in the family business and works after school and on weekends.

The family enterprise has other advantages than someone to fill in: the customers are treated to friendly and individualized service for their needs or special problems. If Fred can't provide an item or order it in time, he gladly recommends a place that can. The customers appreciate the service and attitude and there is a rapport between customer and owner.

This business venture is

the first solo try for Fred, but not his first time in management. Fred has previously managed an insurance firm and a trailer sales and service operation. When Fred was in the market for his own business, he took careful inventory of the area and studied it for need. Projecting a growth in the Feeding Hills area and the absence of any other hardware store, the venture is a natural. Time has proven the business venture a sound risk with yearly growth of the business. The store also has the advantage of carrying enough of a diversified stock so that one item is always in demand. This time of the year, Fred might sell a lot of lawn fertilizer and tools. But each season has its items and Fred's store seems to carry them all. But if its not a product you need, Fred may still have the answer. Fred's glass and screen repair business flourishes year round.

Fred explained that the inventory and repair business stemmed from necessity. There just wasn't anyone else in the area doing it. People needed these items and service five years ago and with the growth in the area, the demand has simply kept pace. The Serra family has enjoyed their stay in the area and have made many friends through the business. It seems that people sense when the owners care enough to become involved and the little extra effort makes the difference. May the Serra business prosper and grow with the area.

FINAL WEEK

20%

BONUS

SALE

FOR AGAWAM RESIDENTS ONLY

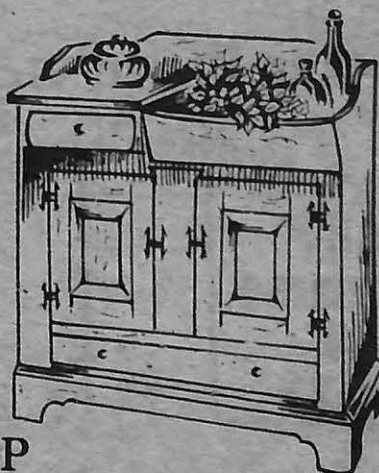
It's our way of showing our appreciation to our neighbors in our own community. We love being Agawam's furniture store.

From April 11th through April 22nd, you will earn a merchandise bonus of 20% of any purchase. If you purchase a sofa for \$500., you earn a \$100. merchandise bonus so you could then purchase a \$239. chair for only \$139. There are no exceptions during the bonus sale...the offer is good for any purchase and for any item either from our stock or ordered for you.

Be sure you tell the people at the Country Squire you're from Agawam. This offer is for Agawam residents only so you'll have to tell us you're entitled to the merchandise bonus. No one will see this announcement except in the Agawam Advertiser/News.

Shopping hours.....Tuesday,
Wednesday, Thursday and
Friday 10 A.M. to 9 P.M.
.....Saturday 10 A.M. to
5 P.M.Closed Sunday
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Free delivery.
Free store preparation.
Free lay-a-way.



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10,000' BAG

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Chickweed, Black Medic, Henbit, Clover,
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SALE \$16⁵⁷

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Mon.-Fri. 9-8, Sat. 8-5

"Life and Breath" Bike-n-Hike

The Western Massachusetts Lung Association will be holding a Bike-n-Hike for "Life and Breath" on Saturday, April 29th. Steve Berra, head of Chapter IV, Massachusetts Society of Respiratory Therapists announced that many of the Respiratory Therapists plan to support the event by riding or hiking the 20 mile route set in the event. Anyone who wishes to participate that day may do so by calling the Western Massachusetts Lung Association at 393 Maple St., Springfield.

New Community Hall & Day Care Center

The Valley Community Church of Feeding Hills will unveil a new building to the public next month when its newest facility will hold an open house some time during the middle of May.

The building will be a combination Day Care Center and Community Hall is expected to care for some 80 to 100 children on the top floor and in the basement, wedding receptions, retirement parties, beano games and other social events which will require a place of some size. The new Community Hall will easily accommodate 250 persons.

For some time there has been an evident need for increasing the size of the Day Care Center and now that this is to be certainty, officials of the Valley Community Day Care Center have announced that openings will be avail-



Brownie Troop #544 attended Ecumenical Service at Sacred Heart Church recently to celebrate the Girl Scout Anniversary. Pictured here in back row, left to right are: Suellen Mushrush, Cheri Ferraro, Kim Walsh, Lou Sheridan, Pam Sheridan, Beth McEwan and Danielle Beaulieu. Front row left to right: Kelly Komyk, Kristin Auger, April LaValley, Tricia Ria, Stephanie Murawski, Stacy Koretz and Diane Carpenter. photo by Jack Devine

able immediately for some 30 to 40 additional children. Registrations will be taken for enrollment now as well as for the Fall season.

For nine years some hundreds of children and parents have expressed great satisfaction over the program of the Valley Community Church Day Care Center. One mother expresses the opinion of many when she said, "I am now a great advocate of the quality of your day care center in preparing a child for school, not only in teaching the proverbial ABC's, but in learning the social graces as well".

The Day Care Center is busy five days a week, fifty-two weeks a year from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Information about vacancies now may be secured from the director by calling 786-2445.

Jr High Exchange Concert

On Wednesday evening, April 10, the Agawam Jr. High School Bands' David Baldock, Director, played host to the Jr. High Bands from Greenfield, Mass. Approximately 400 people were in attendance at the free concert.

The Agawam Jr. High School Jazz Band played several selections, and featured soloists Diane Racicot, trumpet; Scott Mackin, alto sax, who performed very well. Noteworthy also was the Jazz Band rhythm section.

The Greenfield Jr. H.S. Jazz Band, Bill Moulton, Director, was introduced as the group who "wiped out everyone in their division" at the recent competition and comment was made that Agawam "salutes them for their outstanding work". They performed a variety of styles, with soloists Ken Mitzitoutiz,

trumpet; Bill Bassett, tenor sax; Barbara Howe, flute; Lisa Raymond, guitar and Brian Hume, trap drums demonstrating excellent musicianship.

Each school's concert band also performed several selections. Agawam's Scott Mackin, recently named "class musician" did double duty as sax and oboe soloists, doing a terrific job on both instruments.

"It's a good experience for the kids -- it gives them a perspective of themselves and their progress, made or not made yet," according to Mr. Baldock.

Overall, the exchange concert was a fine evenings work. Universally, the middle voices need polish, but the program was enjoyable.

The Agawam Junior High Band will travel to Greenfield in May to complete the exchange concert program.

SILVER CARRIAGE INN

1520 Main Street, Agawam
786-0265



Italian "Times are Tough" Menu
Wednesday Evenings
Entrees

LASAGNA	\$3.25
CHICKEN CACCIATORE	\$3.50
SPAGHETTI and MEATBALLS	\$2.50
EGGPLANT PARMIGIANA	\$3.50
LINGUINE with CLAM SAUCE	\$2.50
RAVIOLI with MEAT SAUCE	\$2.95

Dinner includes salad bar, potato, vegetable rolls and butter

ALL MEATS
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WHOLE
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57¢ lb.

FREEZER SPECIAL

- 2 lb. Cube Steak
- 2 lb. Ground Chuck
- 3 lb. Shoulder Clod Roast
- 1 Whole Chicken
- 2 lb. Pork Spare Ribs
- 1 Stick Pepperoni
- 1 lb. Calves Liver
- 1 lb. Hillshire Kielbasa

\$17.75

COLONIAL
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\$1.35 lb.

KIELBASA

\$1.35 lb.

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WE CARRY A FULL LINE OF
DAIRY, BREAD & MILK



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Junior Girl Scout Troop #38 from James Clark School joined other Agawam Girl Scouts in an Ecumenical Service at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday, April 9, 1978. Pictured here left to right are: Lisa Hutchinson, Teresa Frances Martone, Karen Killian, Christine Sheridan, Christine Markowski, Melissa Thompson, Amy Vacircy, Christing Bardsley and Lenora Murawski. Troop leaders are Mrs. DeGray and Mrs. Martone. photo by Jack Devine

Bloodmobile Schedule

April 24 - West Springfield Police Dept. (Municipal Office Bldg.), 26 Central St., West Springfield, 1; a.m.-4 p.m.
April 26 - Minnechaug Regional High School (gym), 621 Main St., Wilbraham, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
April 28 - West Springfield High School (stage), 425 Piper Rd., West Springfield, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Parents Without Partners

Single parents are invited to attend an orientation meeting of Parents Without Partners, Inc., on Tuesday, April 25th, at 8:00 p.m., to be held at Valley Bank on Sumner Ave., Springfield. PWP is an international organization with chapters throughout the country. Springfield, Chapter #82, alone, has a membership

of over 1400 people. Come and discover what PWP is about. We enjoy a variety of functions - dances, get togethers, family picnics, camping, children's parties, discussions, and much, much more. To be eligible for membership, one must be a single parent - divorced, widowed, separated or unmarried. Custody of children is not a requirement for membership. Age of children is also no barrier.

Golden Age Club Classics

The members of the Springfield Golden Age Club will once again be performing in their musical show, "Classics". This is the twenty-sixth year that the show has been put on by the Golden Agers who help with its production in numerous ways. Many sing and dance in the show, others sell tickets and obtain sponsors who put advertisements in

March Of Dimes Thanks

The March of Dimes drive was a success again this year according to the March of Dimes Chairperson in Feeding Hills, Fred Montessi.

The Wilson-Thompson Post #185, the Springfield Turn-Verein, Inc., the Clifford M. Granger School, the Faolin Pierce School and the Agawam Junior High School all did another fine job in the 1977-78 March of Dimes drive.

Filling their third coin board spelling out "March of Dimes", post members and their guests have contributed \$98.40 thus far. The Springfield Turn-Verein has filled one coin board worth approximately \$50.00.

Granger School children and staff contributed \$186.78; Pierce School donated \$66.06, \$20.00 more than last year; and the Agawam Junior High gave \$44.16.

A special thanks to Mr. James Loomis, principal of Granger School; Mr. Smith Rovelli, principal of Pierce School and Mr. Paul Tatrow, principal of the Junior High for letting their schools participate in the March of Dimes Drive.

Special Certificates of Appreciation will be given to each school and organization for their generous contributions and cooperation.

Each year the Agawam Police Department drops off March of Dimes containers to various stores in the Feeding Hills area. This service is greatly appreciated by the March of Dimes.

School Lunch Menus

No School This Week

Menus for the week of April 24-28:

Monday - grilled cheese sandwich, pickle chips, buttered green beans, 1/2 peanut butter sandwich for seconds, chilled fruit cup, milk.

Tuesday - hamburger gravy on mashed potatoes, buttered beets, rye bread and butter, chocolate cake with vanilla icing, milk.

Wednesday - orange juice, spaghetti with meat and tomato sauce, creamy cole slaw, buttered Italian bread, butter pecan pudding with whip topping, milk.

Thursday - oven roasted chicken, steamed rice, cranberry sauce, buttered diced carrots, whole wheat bread and butter, jello with whipped topping, milk.

Friday - filet of haddock, tartar sauce or ketchup, buttered niblet corn, oven French fried potatoes, molasses cookies.

Agawam Senior Center

Wright Street, Agawam, Mass.

Monday, April 17 - Closed - Patriots Day

April 18 Baked Beans, wieners, cole slaw, pineapple upside down cake

April 19 Meat loaf, squash, potato crinkles, fresh fruit

April 20 Ham quiche, green peas, ice cream w/cookies

April 21 Shrimp chow mein, rice, chinese noodles, lettuce, plums

Menus for the week of April 24 - 28.

April 24 - Shepherd's Pie, red beet salad, chocolate cake with frosting.

April 25 - beef ribs, Spanish rice, zucchini, custard.

April 26 - pork roast, sweet potatoes, sauerkraut, applesauce.

April 27 - Hungarian beef gulash, noodles, turnips, fresh fruit.

April 28 - Clam chowder, rolls with cheese, pecan pie.

If you do not have Medex with your Medicare, now is a chance (once a year) to apply for it. Please contact Dorothy Bassell for details.

Housing Assistance Program: If your rent WITH utilities is \$226 or less, you might qualify to apply for a subsidy. Call Dorothy Bassell for more information.

Our next trip will be May 31, 1978. We will have a guided tour through the Brigham's Candy Factory in Suffield, then eat a very leisurely lunch at the Terrace Room of Bradley's International Airport Restaurant. The afternoon will offer a guided tour of the Mark Twain Museum in Hartford. Price is \$8.50.

SENIORS HELPING SENIORS: We are looking for retired electricians, plumbers, carpenters and Mr. Fix-its to help elderly maintain their homes. This mutually beneficial Handyman Service is working very well in many communities, and we know there is a great need for it here in Agawam. Interested in utilizing your skills and great experience? Call Mr. Garvin, 786-6814, for details. This is not steady employment, but occasional jobs, to help break your routine of the day.

We are moving closer to the opening of our ADULT DAY CARE CENTER. Please ask for application forms if you are interested. For those who have not heard of this program: It offers a social program for elderly who are alone at home, or living with families, who take care of them all day. It enables the lonely person to participate in a small group, with much individual attention, in a very stimulating program, and/or enables homebound younger family members to take a "day off", by bringing their senior family member to the Center. Please call us for more information. Two snacks and a delicious lunch will be served every day.



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A Visit to the Agawam Fire Department

What does a fireman do when he's not fighting a fire? The answer in Agawam is "stay in shape". On March 1, 1978, a program entitled "Physical Fitness for Firefighters" was instituted by Lt. Charles Stowers, Training Officer for the Agawam Fire Department.

There is definitely more to being a fireman than just fighting fires. In the weeks ahead we will be taking a look at other types of training and various other jobs the members of the



Children who visit the Fire Station are allowed to "inspect" the equipment. Here, Jason Guevin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Guevin, sits in the cab of a hook and ladder truck.

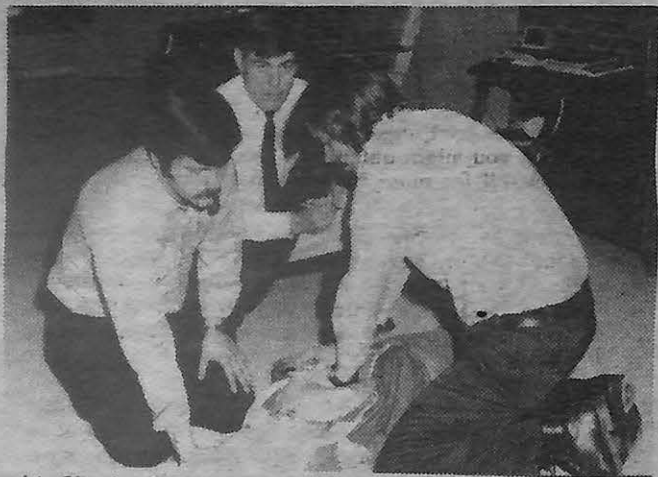
photo by Jack Devine

A daily program of physical fitness exercises have begun for all firefighters; the object being to stay in shape both mentally and physically.

The exercises take from fifteen to twenty minutes daily, and led by Lt. Stowers, the men do such things as push-ups, sit-ups, deep knee bends, and, weather permitting, running outdoors.

Lt. Stowers said the program has been successful so far, and some of the men have lost weight. Blood pressures are also checked regularly and mental as well as physical well being is stressed.

Presently, CPR refresher courses are given immediately after the exercise period as both are a part of the continuous training the men receive.



Lt. Charles Stowers, an E.M.T., is shown recertifying Pvt. Don Wells, left, and Pvt. Larry Grady.



Checking Pvt. Pete Lockhart's (left) blood pressure is Pvt. Randy Cushing. Cushing is an Emergency Medical Technician and is currently training to become a paramedic. photo by Jack Devine

Agawam Fire Department are involved in. The Fire Department also invites groups and individuals to

tour the facilities. Arrangements may be made by contacting any of the fire stations in town.



Left to right: Lt. David Cesan, Station 1, Pvt. Randall Cushing, Station 1; Pvt. Lawrence Grady, Station 1; Pvt. Don Wells, Station 2 and Lt. Charles Stowers, training officer. photo by Jack Devine

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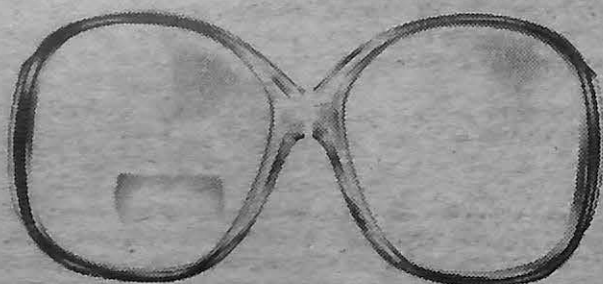
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Editorials

IN DEFENSE OF MRS. CAVANAUGH

Some people around town have not taken kindly to Mrs. Cavanaugh and her effort to put Mrs. D's Country Store out of business. They say that she has no right to deprive another of their right to make a living. That she knew the land was and had been commercial for over fifty years and that she should have known someone would continue a business in that location again. They have been very harsh in their statements about the situation.

They are wrong. Some people have asked whether or not the property was being used commercially when she bought the property. Some have said that the parking problem was an intolerable situation and she had a right to force the issue. All of these points may be valid, but there does seem to be one other point which is vital (and overlooked). Mrs. Cavanaugh had the legal rights afforded all of us and she pursued them. She made her points in court. She obeyed the system. The issue wasn't decided in some back room by a handful of people. It was based on the ordinances and laws applicable. So don't scorn someone for following the system which makes the rules for all of us. She is not the blame. Look elsewhere.

There appears to be a grave injustice in this case. People are going to be deprived in one way or another. Financial gain on the one hand or a right to privacy and quiet on the other. This, apparently, is precisely what the present zoning controversy involves. Your attitudes on what is fair and your concept of what the community will be like, are precisely what is being discussed. Your unwillingness to get involved, to become aware, will affect you...directly. It will affect your tax rate, your living conditions, those of your children, your privacy and possibly your business.

Don't attack the individuals involved in this situation, but attack the system. Ask questions about your rights under the present ordinances and the proposed new ordinances. Will your privacy or your business be threatened? Will your land be re-zoned? What are special permits and how will they be handled? You have every right to know. Only your indifference or ignorance can make this community a place different than what you want.

But don't make the mistake of blaming individuals who follow the rules. If you don't like it, change the rules. You have an excellent time to do it because the Planning Board has invited you to a series of workshops to do just that. Go...and be heard.



It's Amusing

by Bob Guevin

Old movies on T.V. turn me on. I watch as many as I can, before I fall asleep. I often fantasize myself in situations that I've seen. For instance, a few weeks ago, I saw an old Tarzan movie and since then I've had dreams of finding the "elephants graveyard" and becoming fantastically rich. Well, as it happens, I was day dreaming the other day and discovered a treasure: It was the "hubcaps graveyard". It seems that old missing hubcaps make their way every spring to the D.P.W. garage to rest in peace. There, like so many trophies, they are displayed on the walls and tables, a gleaming tribute to man's inability to conquer nature...specifically, potholes.

There was an interesting report this past week about the study being conducted in a major east coast city. They are broadcasting messages over the sound of music which are telling people to be honest. God knows it's a message that needs saying, but the method is Orwellian. The messages are background noise, and said so fast as to penetrate only the sub-conscious. The test results could prove to be very interesting. If successful, I can just envision the many wonderful uses this concept could be put. It would make the Bible obsolete because the Ten Commandments would be unnecessary. People would be one pulsating mass of goodness.

Crime would be eliminated so police departments would become like golf resorts where social affairs would be the most important thing on the agenda. There does seem to be only one slight problem with this system: it is an invasion of one's privacy. Besides programming people like robots, the system assumes that one set of individuals can make decisions for living conditions for everyone else. I kind of like making my own decisions, but, I admit, I am old fashioned. Now if they would just put me in charge of programming they would have to change the Ten Commandments to fourteen—or maybe four.

Why is the term "family" left out of the zoning changes being proposed by the Planning Board? There are several changes in the words used in the sections under "definitions", most of which I can understand, but "family" should be easy enough. Anybody know?

The Connelly Report



I suppose one could assess this past week in the House as the week of the three "B's".

Bureaucracy in the office of the Speaker, was opposed as being "responsive to the narrow needs of a few powerful men-leaving the majority of our citizens unrepresented", by a coalition of members, most of whom are involved in the race for political survival in the 160 member House next year.

Bottle Bill which was salvaged on Tuesday, without debate, by a vote to overturn the adverse report issued by the Ways and Means Committee. On Wednesday, prolonged, emotional debate provided a series of amendments to the bill which will make it palatable for proponents as well as opponents, while calling for fiscal respon-

sibility of the Commonwealth for industrial job losses. If I were to predict the outcome, I would predict some legislation to pass, not unlike that which passed in Connecticut.

Bonin Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court, who attended a controversial lecture which had an intent to raise funds for defense of persons accused criminally, and in which he might ordinarily have assigned the eventual case to other Supreme Court judges. A "Bill of Address" (recall) filed in the House, direct request of his appointing officer, the Governor, to ask Bonin to step down, and obviously more fuel to heat the simmering pot on Beacon Hill.

Rep. Edward W. Connelly
565 River Road
Agawam, Mass. 01001

ABOUT THIS SERIES...

In the coming weeks, the AGAWAM Advertiser/News will be spotlighting various town officials. We began with the new Town Manager and are now featuring a member of the Town Council each week. We hope to eventually cover all Departments in town and thus hope to enlighten our readers and perhaps help them to become more familiar with their system of government and its members.



Floyd Landers Councilor at Large

Floyd Landers, Councilman-at-Large is serving his second term on the Agawam Town Council. Mr. Landers says he enjoys his work on the Council, and likes the present set up of fifteen councilors. Landers serves on the "Utility Pole" Committee of the Council.

Landers says that he likes the present form of government in Agawam, calling it "a lot less political" than most other forms (of government). He commented that from the input he has received from his constituents, it appears that the people also like it. He predicted that the polls would show that the people want to retain the present charter, with some minor revisions i.e. inclusion of job

descriptions and clarification of some of the language. Landers said that the present charter is "too loosely written and can be interpreted several ways."

Landers, who is retired, lives on North Street with wife Dorothy, and daughter Patricia. They have been residents of Agawam for eleven years.

Landers is a Director of the Springfield Chapter of the American Cancer Society and he is Special Events Chairman for the Cancer Society for the Town of Agawam. He is also an active member of the V.F.W., the American Legion, the West Springfield Fish and Game Club, and the Fleet Reserve Society (Navy).

From the Editor's Desk

by Pat Guevin



They've finally done it! The Agawam School Committee, who, on the whole seems more concerned with the almighty dollar than with the educational welfare of the children of Agawam, are now concerned that our student enrollment might drop to a LOW of 25 pupils per classroom! It apparently bothers them that with a student-teacher ratio of 25 to 1 the children might learn a little more, get a little more individualized attention, and teachers wouldn't be so overworked.

I have talked to several teachers in our school system, especially those at the elementary level. They all had the same complaints - too many children, not enough help, a feeling of not quite accomplishing all they were trained to do, and all they indeed wish to do. They are a conscientious, dedicated group of individuals struggling to help our children get a good foothold on the skills they will need in order to cope with our complex society. Yet, some of these teachers, it seems, might be in jeopardy of losing their jobs if the student enrollment drops to a level which, in my opinion, is still too high!

In a conversation I had with one elementary teacher last year, she told me that at the end of a day she would sometimes feel guilty because she was not able to spend time, or even talk with, some of her students during that particular day. That, friends is a sad, sad, commentary on the educational system in Agawam. We are a prosperous community, and should be able to provide our children with the best education available. Alas, that would take money, your tax money, which by the way you are already paying, and which the School Committee seems reluctant to spend on such frivolous things as teacher salaries.

Business Director James Coon suggested that a special committee be formed consisting of members of the School Committee, Planning Board, Town Council, and parents. The School Committee rejected the plan - of course - lest an "outsider", such as a concerned parent, might have some input into their decision making.

I hope that in 1979 the citizens of Agawam become concerned enough with our educational problems to elect people to the School Committee who themselves have young children in the system and thus have a vested interest in the policies and decisions they would be facing.

Letters to the Editor

To The Editor:

Below are a list of names of concerned Agawam Jaycee-ettes who honestly feel that your newspaper is a definite asset to their organization. Nothing can match the impact of a local hometown newspaper. Therefore as Agawam Jaycee-ettes and private citizens of Agawam, we consider a fee of 10 cents an issue a nominal amount to pay for its service.

Betty Spring
Iris Copson
Sharon Hodge
Connie Polidoro
Marsha Blascak
Rae Hall
Marsia Clark
Debbie Maki
Marie Ferris
Kareen Delskey
Germaine Milliken
Roxanne Zern
Paula Bracci
Annette King

To the Editor:

"The King has erected a multitude of New Offices and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance."

July 4, 1977

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Declaration of Independence

It took our society about two hundred years to come full circle, and now, instead of harrassment by the King, we're getting it from our own government. I refer to harrassment in the name of conservation and planning.

A case that makes my point is the proposed master rezoning and new zoning ordinances that have been proposed by the Planning Board. At the recent public hearing, the members of the Agawam Businessmen's Association

were told that there cannot be delays for citizens to study and debate the proposal because "momentum has been generated", whatever that means. It seems odd that the best reason for haste that the Planning Board can offer is no reason at all. . . certainly the citizens of this community cannot be asked to bend to the will of this small group so they might be rid of their itch. The Board got the itch on their own. . . let them get rid of it by themselves.

The remarks at the subject hearing show clearly that the Chairperson suffers from a very serious case of economic illiteracy. . . her position doesn't make sense to business people but its absolutely shocking to tax attorneys and public accountants. Her proposal for commercially zoned property that is not developed within twenty years to be down zoned to residential because it was "improperly zoned in the first place" is absurd. She should acquaint herself with inflation hedging and estate tax law before taking wrong positions.

The concept of "Planning" is a very recent phenomenon that has been brought forward by government and one to be very cautiously studied by tax payers. (we're going to get a chance to pay for the mistakes). Planning starts with the faulty premise that there are a selected few in this society that talk to God so that they are blessed with foresight that ordains them to make judgements and plan development for the rest of us. They further make the mistake that the tax payers are really a childlike and stupid crowd that must be led and pampered. They wrap themselves in false robes of unproven credentials, run up banners of unknown degrees and lecture us with language

continued on page 9



Singing "Happy Birthday" to our Town Manager, Peter Caputo are Jay Contrino, [center], and Joe Panetta [left].
photo by Jack Devine

This Week's Young Businessman

This week's Advertiser/News' Young Businessman of the week is Jeff Guevin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Guevin of 55 Butternut Drive in Agawam.

Jeff is a third grade student at James Clark School. Jeff plays goalie for the Agawam Bees. His team finished its season in first place in the 8-10 C Division, and Jeff finished with the best "goals

against" average in the division. Jeff also plays baseball for the Agawam A.A.

Among Jeff's other interests are skateboarding, bike riding, bowling and swimming.

Jeff delivers papers, sometimes with the help of younger brother Jason, on Butternut Drive, Arbor Lane, Fernwood Drive and Primrose Lane.



Jeff Guevin

More Letters

that doesn't make sense, i.e., "momentum has been generated".

Please rid yourselves of the false promise of government. Remember, it is the organization that brought you the Social Security mess, Welfare, the Postal Service, Massachusetts Prison System, the War in Southeast Asia, Watergate, the Forest Park Zoo, five million young Americans that will not work, undefineable pornography, the public school systems. . . the failures will fill pages. Government is not omnipotent and those employed by government do not have degrees in Divine Infalibility. Democracy's very definition demands governing by people or their elected representatives. . . we should return to Democracy with great haste. Our present vulnerable position is frightening.

Please don't dislike the people in government, because they truly believe in what they do even though it results from the disease of terminal subjectivity. . . tunnel vision, arrogance, exaggeration, untruths and fabrications are only the symptoms.

We all have the right to fight to retain our liberty and property and we must all exercise that right.

I.M. Liberty

To The Editor

The residents of Southwick Street, North and South West Streets and surrounding Streets are losing a neighbor. Mrs. D's Country Store may be the provider for our light shopping needs, but it has also become a place to visit with wonderful neighbors, the DiFlumera's.

The 'occupant' who has protested the DiFlumera's store should perhaps look back about two years when the building looked like a

dump-trash surrounded and uncared for. The DiFlumera's have kept their store extremely neat and have improved the building so that it is no longer the eyesore it used to be.

It seems to me that when one person in a neighborhood is able to dictate what approximately four hundred petition signers are against, our democratic society is in trouble. We would like to see the store remain!

What is really surprising is that the 'occupant' is a store owner in Springfield, herself.

Mrs. Barbara Hastings

To The Editor:-

The proposed business zoning ordinance as set forth in the statement of Planning Board policy has many features that the people of Agawam will find hard to get accustomed to.

To this date, business or industrial investment capital has been required to satisfy many demanding agencies. After taking daring risks and saving prudently, the investor gathers enough seed money for a start. From that base he must make careful personal judgement as to new venture. Once his banker, lawyer, accountant, family and stockholders are satisfied he must face a gauntlet of government obstacles.

The first problem might be a "change of zone" which in itself is time consuming and expensive. It might even lead to bad feelings with the future neighbors; bad enough so that he will be forced to give up his new

venture. All too often a zone change hearing brings out personal dislikes that cause wounds that take many years to heal.

After the zoning requirement is met, he must satisfy the Conservation Board in public hearings and then seek site review for industrial building before the Planning Board. Once he is able to satisfy these two bureaus he may then request a building permit. His plans must be certified by a structural engineer or architect and approved by the building inspector to see that all state and local codes are carefully complied with. He must pay a fee for his permit based on square footage of his proposed building. Inspections go on throughout construction to see that the laws are enforced.

If all parties are satisfied he may then proceed so he can join that select group of business people that choose to test themselves against odds that average a failure rate of 98 per cent.

The Planning Board philosophy introduces a new problem for the person who is drawn to business risk. The building permit would come from the Planning Board of Appeals instead of the Building Department. The most shocking part of the proposal is that neighbors now have a say in what you choose to do on and with your property. Please understand that they are not talking of concern for public safety, health or welfare...these are well protected by local and state laws. We are to consider the proposal that any property owner within three hundred feet is invited to invade a

persons private domaine, to offer suggestions that require no knowledge of the particular business or even business in general. It would bruise personal feelings, bring animosity to neighbors, it is invasion of personal financial privacy, it is not democratic and it is unworkable.

If by some desperate error this proposed ordinance should become law, I will hope that I am never invited to be part of such a hearing. I do not choose to interfere in peoples private affairs; I hope they will always pay me the same courtesy.

I choose Democratic principle...I reject the Planning Board philosophy.

Arthur J. Leary Jr.,
Shopkeeper
Country Squire Shop

To the Editor:

I know I speak for the many Senior Citizens who ride the bus on Thursdays, as they have personally praised the three men who make our trips to pleasant and easy.

First, Mr. Shea, whose friendly, warm voice over the telephone helps to brighten our day, Jack and "Lennie" (Mr. Leonard), who assist each and everyone in getting our groceries to our respective doors with a kindly and caring attitude. These men are a dedicated group. We just couldn't do with out them. They are just great.

Last, but not least, Irene Cavanaugh, the driver of the bus, who also works tirelessly to carry and load the groceries. Theirs is a job well done.

Mrs. D. Brown

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL 18, 1978 Pre-school Story Hour 10:00 A.M. Agawam Public Library	APRIL 19, 1978 A.H.S. Track Parents Meeting 8:00 P.M. Agawam High School
APRIL 18, 1978 Agawam Junior Women's Club Banquet 6:30 P.M. Silver Carriage Inn	APRIL 26, 1978 Meatball Supper St. Anthony Rosary Society 5 - 7 P.M. Middle School, Agawam
MAY 21, 1978 Pancake Breakfast Agawam Chapter of UNICO 8 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Agawam Middle School	MAY 6th & 7th SPAN Annual Tag and Bake Sale 770 Springfield Street Feeding Hills

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Social

Rita Moore Red Cross Volunteer

Rita Moore is at her best when busiest!

She is a very active volunteer in the Pioneer Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross, a Pioneer Valley United Way agency. She teaches various levels of first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The enthusiastic Mrs. Moore wishes "everybody in the world could have basic knowledge of first aid and CPR".

Mrs. Moore, a nationally-registered emergency medical technician, is Chairwoman of the Health and Safety

Education Committee and on the Red Cross Board of Directors and Executive Committee. She previously served as secretary of the organization.

She has been an active volunteer since 1966. "Once I became moderately involved, I saw a tremendous need for help... to pass on information and to help save lives," says Mrs. Moore.

She exemplifies the spirit and need for Red Cross Volunteers.

According to Executive Director William Phillips, the Red Cross depends greatly

upon volunteer workers like Rita Moore. There are 1,263 volunteers, including 170 from Agawam, as well as 14 paid staff members at work throughout the valley.

"Many people are unaware of the various Red Cross programs," says Phillips. In 1977, more than 20,000 units of blood were collected in the Pioneer Valley, including more than 600 units in Agawam. This year, participants have already completed over 437,000 hours of water safety and first aid (basic life saving and CPR) instruction. This Pioneer Valley United Way agency also provides community volunteers and serves disaster victims, youth, and military families and veterans.

Mrs. Moore and her husband, who have two daughters and a grandson, reside at 41 Federal Avenue, Agawam. They both volunteer for various community activities and organizations.

Rita Moore and the Red Cross are never too busy to help.



Shown at the Cancer Brunch sponsored recently by the V.F.W. Post #1632 are: Councilman Floyd Landers, Brunch Chairperson Eleanor Appleman, Ruth Zucco, Cancer Crusade Chairperson for Agawam, and Norman McMahon, Chief Cook. photo by Jack Devine

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SPAN Center GED Graduation

On April 11, the GED class at the SPAN Center held a graduation celebration in honor of three students who recently completed class at SPAN and have received their G.E.D. High School Equivalency Diploma. Congratulations to Nancy, Bev, and Carol. Our GED class is on-going and new students are welcome.

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The Agawam V.F.W. Post 1632, held their first cancer kick-off on Sunday April 9th at the Post hall on South Street, Agawam. This was also the first champagne brunch held by them for the local cancer crusade.

About 200 people were on hand to enjoy the ham, eggs, and champagne, and also the company of one another. Councilman Floyd Landers, Special Event Chairman, and Co-Chairman, Ellie Appleman, served with the following committee: head chef, Norm McMahon; co-chef, Earl Wabrath; Vanetta

Snyder, Auxiliary President; Barbara Cook, Ted Perreault, Andrea Luginbuhl, Mary Lacross, and Trish Landers, worked diligently to make this event a success. All proceeds of this event will go to the American Cancer Society.

Jay Contrino and his band played and donated their time to the cause for the entire event. Town Manager Peter Caputo and his lovely wife paid tribute to the Post by being a part of the festivities. It was a real fun day, with everyone enjoying not only the food but each

other's company.

Ruth Zucco, Crusade Chairman and Agawam Director, was amazed at the cooperation of all who attended. She also stated that for a first time event it was most successful.

Mrs. Zucco would like to remind the public of the upcoming car wash, to be held on April 22, 1978 from 8:30 a.m. til dusk. Rain date will be April 29, same time. This event will take place at the Post on South Street, Agawam. Price for any size car will be 99 cents. So please wash your car for cancer.

Clark School Open House

James Clark School will be holding Open House on Wednesday, April 26 from 7-9 p.m. We hope that all parents will make a special effort to get in to see your

child's teacher on this evening.

To help create an awareness of what to look for to recognize a drug abuse problem, staff members from the district court system will present a drug display board. They will be

available to answer questions. Please make a special effort to view this valuable display.

The James Clark School P.T.O. will be serving coffee and refreshments in the cafeteria.

See you all on April 26th!

Agawam Jr Women's Club

The Agawam Junior Women's Club will close their twentieth anniversary year with a banquet to be held at 6:30 on Tuesday evening, April 18th, at the Silver Carriage Inn. Following a buffet dinner, Mrs. Nancy Rosner will conduct her final business meeting highlighting the club's accomplishments during the 1977-78 club year. She will then pass

her gavel on to incoming president Mrs. Diane Willard in a candlelight ceremony conducted by Mrs. Karen Douglass. Each of the club's past presidents have been invited to attend to join with current members in celebrating the Agawam Junior Women's Club's twenty years of continued community service.

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Mrs. D's Country Store Given Notice to Abate a Violation

Mrs. D's Country Store, located at 311 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, has been officially notified by Agawam Building Inspector Joseph Conte to "abate a violation" in compliance of a Superior Court order handed down on November 29, 1977. The notification to close was to be delivered effective April 1, 1978, but was delayed because of legal communication problems between parties.

The court order has put the DiFlumeras in a financial straight jacket. The order to desist the use of the property and building for commercial use virtually destroys any market value for the property. According to Mr. Joseph Conte, who is also Agawam's Zoning Enforcement Officer, the DiFlumeras will be unable to put the building to any use. It cannot be used commercially, because of



Mrs. Jeannette DiFlumera, owner, and daughter. "How can one person deprive another of the right to make a living?"

The controversy and court decision is the result of a zone challenge by an abutting neighbor based on a non continuous use of a non conforming permit. The land and building have been used commercially since the mid-twenties but was rezoned in 1950 to Residential A-2. Mrs. Cavanaugh, the plaintiff and abutting neighbor, had claimed in court that the building had been discontinued in its business use for a significant period of time and that it should revert to the residential use. Mrs. Cavanaugh had also contended that the building had been occupied for residential use at the time immediately preceding the purchase of the property by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph DiFlumera in 1976. Superior Court Judge Smith, based on the evidence submitted at the trial, found for the plaintiff, Mrs. Cavanaugh and ordered the Attorneys to mutually set up the closing conditions in compliance with his findings.

the court order; also, it cannot be used as a residence because the structure is unsuited for



A typical day: Business is brisk. Most neighbors want the store to remain open.

residential use; it can't be used as a warehouse, garage, shed or any other thing. The DiFlumeras, meanwhile, must continue with their mortgage payments and taxes on the property.

Although experiencing an emotional and financial crisis, Mrs. DiFlumera has



Mr. Joseph Conte, Zoning Enforcement Officer, serving "Notice to Abate a Violation" papers to Mrs. DiFlumera.

stood fast in her belief that some good will yet come out of this episode. "One of the nicest things to come out of this whole thing is the support and friendship shown to us by the neighborhood people. They have been very nice." Mrs. DiFlumera has asked the neighborhood people to join her next week in picketing the front of the store to bring her cause before the public's attention. The DiFlumera's attorney is petitioning for a stay of execution this week to allow the store to remain open while the appeal process is followed. While

the legal avenues available may be uncertain, some town officials have expressed the opinion that the DiFlumeras might have to resort to the Board of Appeals to grant a hardship continuance for commercial use. However, even if successful, that process would be time consuming and costly.

Mrs. DiFlumera admits to being more than a little confused by the system. She asks, "How can one person deprive another of the right to make a living? It just doesn't seem fair."

SPAN Tag Sale

On May 6th and 7th SPAN will be having their annual Tag and Bake Sale at their location at 770 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills. Donations of any kind will be appreciated and may be left at the Center any week day between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Save May 6th and 7th to spend some time at our tag sale. We'll have a surprise for all the kids.

Community Lens Named Grange to Meet to Honor Society

The Community Grange will meet Tuesday evening, April 18th at 7:30 p.m. at the Grange Home on North West Street.

The Junior Grange will be our guests and fill the officers chairs. Jeffrey Hastings, the lecturer of the Junior Grange, is in charge of the program in which many members of the Junior Grange will be included.

A social hour will follow the program. George and Margaret Parrott are co-chairpersons of the refreshment committee assisted by Jacqueline Cavanaugh and Edgar and Annette Gillis.

John E. Lens, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lens of Northwest Street, Feeding Hills, has been named to the Chi Epsilon Honor Society at the University of Vermont where he is a senior majoring in Civil Engineering.

Chi Epsilon is a National Honor Society which recognizes outstanding students in Engineering.

John is currently President of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity, Vermont Chapter.

He is a graduate of Agawam High School and Springfield Technical Community College.



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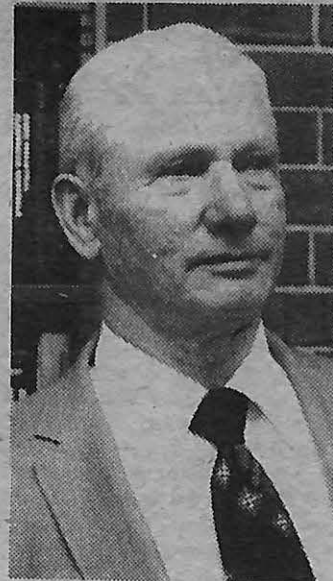
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Rothus Promoted



Victor F. Rothus

John D. Driscoll, dean of Samuel I. Ward Technical

College, University of Hartford, recently announced that effective September 1, Victor F. Rothus is promoted to the position of Associate Professor of Engineering Technology.

Rothus has taught at Ward College since 1959. In 1975 he was honored for 15 years' service. He teaches in the areas of industrial electronics and automation, and mathematics.

Professor Rothus earned a Ward diploma in 1959, and an Associate in Science degree in Applied Science in 1967. After studying at the U. of Hartford College of Education and Allied Services, he was awarded two

degrees--Bachelor of Science in Education, in 1968, and Master of Education, in 1971, with a major in professional development.

Rothus served in the U.S. Navy, principally as a chief electrician's mate. He joined the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve in 1960, and is presently a lieutenant, senior grade, on active status.

After W.W. II, Rothus was employed by a number of industrial firms in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Having joined Ward College in 1959, he served as admissions office in 1971-72.

Rothus was chairman of Ward Career Clinics, in 1974-75. His professional affiliations include the American Society of Engineering Education.

He is married and lives at 66 Norris Street, Feeding Hills.

Golden Ager Installation

The Agawam Golden Age Club recently held its installation dinner at St. Ann's Country Club. Installed as officers for the coming year were: Michael Jabry, President; Samuel Joyce, Vice-president; Mary Demersky, Recording Secretary; Kay Aldrich, Chaplain; Alice Squazza, Treasurer; and Emmiline Comeau, Corresponding Secretary.



This group of girls participated in the Walk-a-Thon which began at the American Legion on Springfield Street last week. The Walk collected funds for disadvantaged youth.

photo by Jack Devine

Read-A-Thon

The annual Read-a-thon of Western Massachusetts will be going on until May 1, 1978. The students will range in age from 6 to 14 and go around looking for people to sponsor them for reading books. Each person will be asked to pledge an amount of money for each book the student reads. Not only does this motivate the kids to read, but the money collected will go toward the research of multiple sclerosis. These young readers have collected over seven million dollars, nationwide this past year. The Read-a-thon is sponsored by the local McDonalds.

Annual Spring Cleanup

The Department of Public Works will conduct the Annual Spring Cleanup during the period of May 8 through May 19. This service is provided so that residents may dispose of items not collected during the regular bi-weekly refuse collection.

All items to be taken must be placed on the treebelt by 7 a.m. of the scheduled collection day. All small or loose items must be placed in plastic bags or in metal or plastic containers not larger than 30 gallons in capacity. All metal objects, demolition materials (lumber, plaster, bricks, etc.) and tires must be placed in separate piles. NO tree stumps, lawn rakings or branches will be picked up. Lawn rakings and brush are

taken in the regular refuse collections. Stumps and branches may be taken to the disposal area off Tennis Road on Saturday mornings.

Mazza Opens Law Office



Attorney Peter D. Mazza, a native of West Springfield and resident of Agawam, announces the opening of an office for the general practice of law at 1111 Elm Street, West Springfield. A 1976 graduate of Western New England College School of Law, he was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar in January, 1977.

Mazza, holder of a Juris Doctor Degree, a Master's Degree in Guidance and Psychological Services, and a Bachelor's Degree in History has been an area educator for fifteen years serving as teacher, guidance counselor, and college dean. He was named a 1974 Outstanding Educator of America.

As a law student Mazza was the recipient of American Jurisprudence Awards for excellence in the study of Corporations and in Estate Planning (probate).

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Local Western Massachusetts Safety Officers and the A.A.A. combined forces to provide "Safety Patrol" members with a trip to Washington, D.C. Formulating plans recently at Storowton Tavern are (left to right), back row: Sgt. Stan Chmielewski, Agawam Safety Officer; Lt. Dick Fearn, Agawam Fire Dept.; Lt. Paul DeStephano, Springfield Safety Officer; Sgt. Ed Jez, East Longmeadow Safety Officer. Front row, left to right: Lawson Allen, A.A.A. of Springfield Tour Director; Sgt. Eugene Zewenski, Montague Safety Officer and Sgt. Ed Jez, East Long Meadow Safety Officer. photo by Jack Devine

N.E. Assoc. of Schools and Colleges Evaluation

During the last several months, the staff at Agawam High School has been busy preparing for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges evaluation which will take place during the three day period of November 6th, 7th and 8th. At a recent meeting, four of the 25 sub-committee self-evaluation reports which will be used as part of the evaluation of Agawam High School were given formal acceptance by the professional staff.

Paul Cavallo, chairman of the School and Community sub-committee reported the results of a comprehensive statistical survey of the characteristics of the community and the needs, aspirations and abilities of the students at Agawam High School.

The Philosophy and Objectives report was presented by Chairman Albert Baggetta who stated: "The purpose of our committee was to develop an educational guideline for the entire professional staff as they seek to provide significant educational experiences for all students in our school."

The report on Student Activities was presented by Chairman Evelyn Hamilton. David Theodorowicz, Principal of Agawam High School and Chairman of the School Facilities sub-committee reported on the physical plant and facilities.

The Steering Committee Chairman, John Morrissey, stated that the other sub-committee reports will be given during the next several months in preparation for the evaluation.

Misisco Attains Deans List

David Misisco, freshman at Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Florida, has been named to the academic Dean's list for the past semester. Misisco, son of Mrs.

Theresa Angotti and Mr. Edward Misisco, both of Agawam, is majoring in Marine Biology. He is a 1977 graduate of Agawam High School.

Vanishing Species Series

This is a series of essays written by a 6th Grade students from Agawam Middle School. Six of the essays were chosen to be entered into a national contest sponsored by the Fund for Animals. The essays were chosen randomly and will appear on a weekly basis, space permitting.

THE PUERTO RICAN PARROT: FLYING AWAY FOREVER

by Maria Ollari

The vanishing species I'd most like to see have a chance at life is the Puerto Rican parrot, an animal that lives in the Luguillo Forest of Puerto Rico. Parrots are becoming extinct because they are being hunted heavily; their habitat is being destroyed, and the pearly-eyed thrashers prey on them.

Parrots have been hunted heavily during the past century. Taino Indians occasionally hunted parrots.

They killed parrots with rocks and clubs, then ate the meat. The parrot was plentiful until the population of man increased.

The parrot's habitat is being destroyed by people. They cleared the low-land

forests that suited parrots' habitat best. People began slaughtering parrots that were eating crops. They thought parrots were their enemies.

Pearly-eyed thrashers are probably the greatest natural enemies of the parrots. The thrasher chases the parrots from the nest. It isn't hard for the thrasher to do this because the nest is in a hole in a tree forty feet high.

We and animals have

caused parrots to be endangered. We should reserve more land. Make bird sanctuaries that would protect other birds. Pass laws that would forbid parrot hunting. By doing these things we could keep the parrot around longer.



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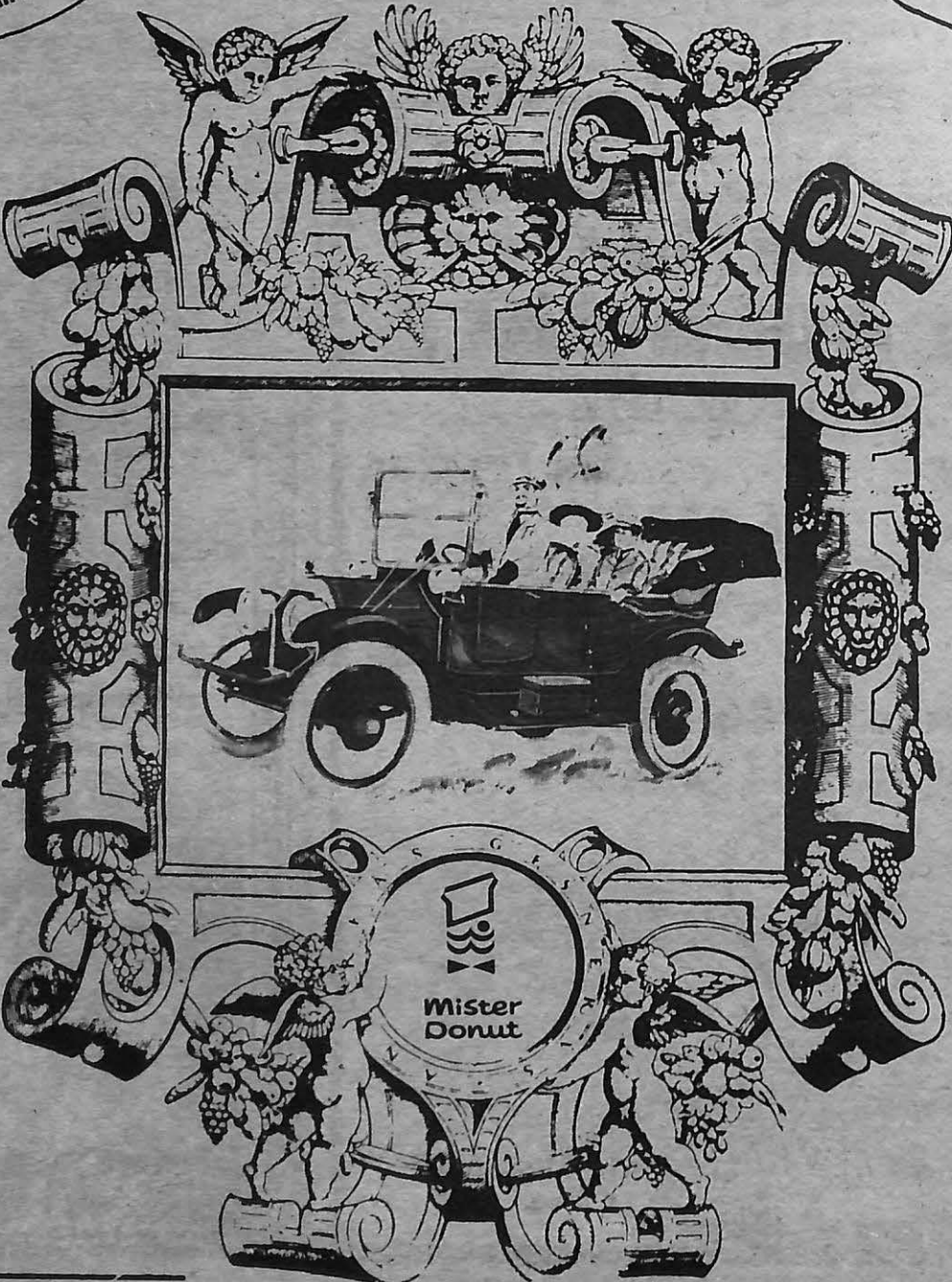
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Tennis Lessons at Agawam YMCA

The Y.M.C.A. Family Center in Agawam is offering Tennis lessons for adult beginners and intermediates, beginning April 22, 1978. Classes will be held for beginners on Tuesday morning, Wednesday evenings, Thursday noon and Saturday noon and for intermediates on Wednesday mornings and Friday evenings. Cost for Family Center members is \$20.00 for a 5 week session and for non-members \$30.00. Anyone interested should contact Ginny Kinnell 739-6951 Ext. 253 at the Metropolitan Springfield Y.M.C.A.

These lessons are the

beginning of a series of summer-long sessions with instructors such as Rudy Altobelli, Ron Davis, Pam Mack, Linda Nichols and Janine Canada. The second series of sessions will begin on June 3, 1978. Each class is limited to 15 students and must have a least 10 to be held. All classes will be held at the Y.M.C.A.'s three outdoor courts at their Family Center in Agawam.

The Family Center also offers an inexpensive family program with swim lessons and picnic grounds. Family memberships are \$85.00 for the year. For more information call the Springfield "Y".

Rotary Club Public Auction

The first annual Agawam Rotary Club Public Auction will be held on Saturday, July 8, 1978, 1-4 p.m. at the Westfield Savings Bank grounds on Main Street, Agawam. Rain or Shine. All proceeds will benefit the Agawam Library Building Fund.

Spring Preschool Story Hour

The Agawam Public Libraries will begin its annual Spring Preschool Story Hour on Wednesday, April 19, 1978, at 10:00 A.M. The story hour will run for six consecutive Wednesdays up to May 17, at Agawam Public Library II, 862 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. only.

Pre-registration is required and may be done at either the Agawam Center Library or the APL II Library. All children registered must be at least 3½ years old. There will be coffee and doughnuts for the mothers of the preschoolers. Register now since enrollment is limited due to space limitations.



Veteran's Day Parade Committee pictured here from left to right: Tom Whalen, John McCarthy, George Brown, Robert Morris, Harold Channell and Shirley Houghton.

photo by Jack Devine

Memorial Day Parade Committee

The Agawam Veterans Memorial Committee meeting was held April 11, 1978 at the Agawam Town Hall. Plans for the Memorial Day Parade and the church services were discussed.

Present was Harold Channell W.W.I.; Shirley

Houghton D.A.V.; Robert Morris V.F.W.; Tom Whalen and George Brown, American Legion; Jack Devine, Chief of Police Auxiliary; and John J. McCarthy, Director of Veterans Service.

The committee anticipates the largest parade turnout

that Agawam has ever had. Any organization interested in participating in the parade activities, please contact any of the above members.

The next meeting will be April 25th at 7:30 p.m. in the Veterans Service office at the rear of the Town Hall.

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Assets of the Westfield Savings Bank on March 31 were a record \$132,346, 385, for a 12-month gain of \$13,858,380. President Arthur W. Knapp told the 125th annual meeting of the bank's corporators at the Sheraton Inn Wednesday night, April 12.

"The past year has been an excellent one for the Westfield Savings Bank," Mr. Knapp said, "and on the basis of first quarter results I am confident that 1978 is going to be another fine year for the bank."

Mr. Knapp noted that home-building in the bank's service area is strong, and

that there are ample mortgage funds to support this important economic activity.

During his report to the corporators, Mr. Knapp spoke of the 125th anniversary of the Westfield Savings Bank, which is being observed this year. "During its history," he said, "the bank has grown from a small one-room operation on Elm Street to our present stature, serving thousands of customers from our four offices."

This year also marks the 40th anniversary of the opening of the bank's West Springfield office and the 10th anniversary of the Agawam office, he noted.

The 125th anniversary of the bank's founding will be formally observed during a cake-cutting ceremony in the main office in Westfield on Friday morning at 10.

Savings deposits on March 31 totaled \$118,980,489, a gain of \$11,789,429 over the

March 31, 1977, figure of \$107,191,060.

Mr. Knapp said that the growth of deposits, while increasing the dividend return to savers, has a major secondary importance.

"We, in turn, invest those funds, primarily in residential mortgages in our area," he said, "which means that depositors are actually investing in the economic and residential expansion of their communities."

The bank's mortgage portfolio on March 31 was \$91,010,353, an increase of \$9,155,519 over the year-ago figure of \$81,854,834.

During the 12-month period Westfield Savings Bank paid dividend totaling \$6,862,667, the largest sum for any year in the bank's 125 year history.

These dividends were paid at the rates of 5¼ per cent for regular savings accounts, 5¼ per cent for 90-day notice

accounts, 6½ percent for 1 to 2½ year certificates, 6¼ per cent for 2½ to 4 year certificates, and 7½ per cent for four year certificates.

Directors re-elected for three-year terms were Calvin J. Arnold, Southwick tobacco grower; George B. Brooks, administrator of Noble Hospital; Attorney Horace N. Fuller; and William J. Klein, general manager of Box-maker Warner Packing Division of Rexham Corporation.

Arthur W. Knapp was re-elected president, Thomas J. Howard and David C. Colton were re-elected vice-presidents, and Mr. Fuller was re-elected clerk of the corporation.

Renamed to the auditing committee were Mr. Brooks, A. Stanley Rzewski, Westfield businessman, and Attorney Philip C. Smith of the law firm of Scharoff and Smith.

Westfield Savings Bank Report

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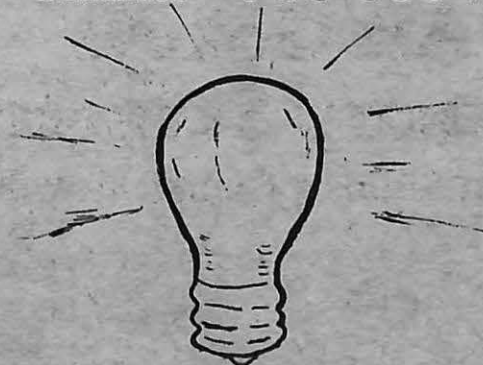
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Sitting on a reproduction of a Japanese Room the children made are from left: Peter Saracino, John O'Connell, Marc Peruzzi, Dave Dusault, Theresa Marciel and Scott Yanginski. All are fourth graders at Robinson Park School. photo by Jack Devine

Students Present 'Japan Night'

Last week, fourth grade students from Robinson Park Elementary School presented 'Japan Night', a culmination of their two month study of the Japanese culture, and presented in various art forms.

Mrs. Barbara Skolnick, Principal of the school is very interested in integrating the social studies program at the school, with the arts, to totally involve the student in the various cultures they are studying.

Last week's presentation included a Japanese folk tale done in the manner of the kabuki theater. Mrs. Skolnick said that the Cultural Education Collaborative office in Springfield assisted in the project, and Anita Page of Stage West helped the

children dramatize the folk tale.

Students, taught by Jayne Persch of the Springfield Ballet Company, demonstrated in dance the Japanese tea ceremony, haiku, flower arranging, and the martial arts.

A slide presentation was made on Japan and its people, and showed such things as ink painting, flower arranging, and the making of kites and kimonos.

The school was decorated in a Japanese fashion, and displays and exhibits were set up for those attending to view. One exhibit, was a reproduction of a Japanese room constructed by the children. The following day, at the school, the children had a Japanese food tasting

party.

Mrs. Skolnick was appreciative to all who helped make the study such a success. She said that every child had a kimono made either by a parent, teacher, or volunteer. She said that the atmosphere of excitement and cooperation "permeated the whole school". Mrs. Skolnick said that the school, as a whole, was totally immersed in this study, and she hopes to expand this program in the future to include other cultures.

The fourth grade teachers at the school who did so much to make this endeavor a success are: Cynthia Basdekis, Andrew Bower, and Mrs. Evelyn Lester.



Students perform "Kanjinchō" [an old Japanese folk tale] in a Kabuki style play. photo by Jack Devine

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Sports

Riley Shines in Opener: Brownies Bow in Follower

by Dan Maruszczak Jr.

The Agawam High School baseball team opened their 1978 season last Monday, defeating Cathedral 4-1. The Brownie's Mike "Snake" Riley, along with Cathedral's Steve Joseph had it out in a long pitcher's duel. The stands were silent as Joseph and Riley hummed their fastballs across the plate, blinding the hitters with their speed.

Riley ended up with a four-hitter, fanning 14, while Joseph pitched a six-hitter, whiffing four.

The Los Angeles Dodger scout was on hand with a Jugs machine, to measure the speed of Riley's fast-ball, which turned out to be 86 m.p.h., the speed of a major league pitcher.

The 6'7" fireballer threw three straight K's in the ninth, setting the Panthers down in order. Riley seemed to be throwing harder at the end of the game than at the beginning.

Brownie second baseman Tommy Knight scored the winning run at the beginning of a delayed steal in the seventh, while center fielder Steve Coccarini slashed a single to bring in an Agawam run.

The highlight smash of the game came in the eighth, when right fielder, Steve Neilson slashed a long triple to center.

Brian Theault showed his quickness behind the plate, leading his battery mate Riley to the victory.

On the Panther side, first baseman Mike Belniak had two hits on the card, while teammate Eric Yuneman had two hits also, one being to right.

Agawam went on to win 4-1, with only one run earned, and ten balls being hit safely.

Last Tuesday's game was a complete turnaround of the game the preceding day. The Brownies were manhandled, 13-2, with West

Springfield dominating most of the game.

During last spring's season, Agawam beat West Side twice. Last Tuesday, the Terriers got their revenge on their long-time rivals, by giving the Brownies their all-out best.

Alex St. Jean bashed his first home run against the Brownies, with teammate Tom Duquette following with a triple. Terrier Dave McCarthy had two hits, along with Bill Meader and Jeff Koziel.

Meader and Koziel were making their first varsity

starts at the time.

On the mound for the terriers was John Landry, who's superb hurling performance brought nine strikeouts for the day.

On the Agawam side, the Brownies were virtually put to a halt on both defense as well as offense. Frank Bonavita and hockey star Ron Dutton each stroked two hits for the battered Brownies.

The Brownies host the Amherst squad this Friday, at the Harmon Smith Field on the Agawam High School's grounds.

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Touching All Bases

by Dan Maruszczak Jr.

The Valley Wheel League touched off its 1978 season last week, setting off the first sparks of an expected hot year. High schools across Western Mass. will be heating up for the long race still to come.

This week's column is being devoted to the predictions and evaluation of the Valley Wheel's high school clubs. As I am an Agawam resident, you may have reason to believe that I might be judging with a little biasedness, but I assure you that my predictions are as I evaluated the teams during the past week.

My final prediction of the Valley Wheel League is as follows:

1. Agawam
1. East Longmeadow (tie)
2. Longmeadow
3. Amherst
4. Minnechaug
5. Ludlow
6. Putnam Vocational
7. South Hadley

I can already hear the wails of disappointment of Ludlow and Minnechaug fans, and the cheers of satisfaction for the die-hard Brownie followers. As I stated before, these are my honest picks, and I will support them throughout the schoolboy season.

The following is an evaluation of each of the Valley Wheel teams as of their opening day roster:

AGAWAM: Under superb coaching of Gerry Smith, the

Brownies have won the Wheel championship for six of the last seven seasons. Agawam has an excellent starting battery of catcher, Brian Rheault and prime pitcher Mike "Snake" Riley. Rheault hit .342 with 20 RBI's last season, combined with his strong throwing arm. Riley, on the other hand, is presently sought after by six major league clubs. Last spring Riley held a 6-6 record with a 2.12 ERA. Riley throws low and hard, with his fast ball clocked at 85 m.p.h.

Backing up Riley this year will be southpaw Paul Tangredi. Tangredi starred on his legion team last year, and is expected to bring a strong relief to Riley.

The other key player on the Brownies is Tom Harkins, who hit .300 in his sophomore year. Harkins had an off-year last season, and is expected to bring an excellent defensive first base position this spring.

EAST LONGMEADOW: East Longmeadow returns once again this year with their two Western Mass picks from last season, third baseman Luc Menard and left fielder Carl Hallen, who hit .385 last season.

From last year's Suburban League comes John Murphy, who starred as a pitcher and shortstop, and will greatly benefit the Spartans this year.

Sharing East



Agawam High School Baseball

photo by Jack Devine

Longmeadow catching will be Matt Bean and Paul Medrek, who each will beef up the Spartan line-up.

LONGMEADOW: The Lancers have a strong pitching arm this season with fireballer Pete Kumiega, along with flame-thrower Jon Paley. Also joining the staff this season will be Steve Marr, adding a strong reliever to the team.

Returning from last year is Mike Hurwitz (2nd base), Mike Fritz (short stop), and Peter Gutermann (3rd base), to make up the well-rounded infield.

AMHERST: This year the Hurricanes have the addition of fire-baller John Casey, who produced a 9-2 record last season. The only other major member of the Amherst club will be David Flood, who was 3-2 as a hurler last season, and is also a prime contender for a third base spot on the team.

MINNECHAUG: The Falcons return this year with two .300 hitters in their starting lineup, left fielder Frank Saryniarz (.352) and second baseman Dennis

Costello (.333).

Catcher John Devine bursts with potential this season as an excellent defensive as well as offensive player. Devine hit .267 during last spring's play.

Adding to the Falcons is premier pitcher Jeff Pokorney, whose arm makes him one of the top hurlers in the Wheel.

LUDLOW: The Lions look like they're going to have a no-name club this year, as the talent is there, but the hitting isn't. The key of the Ludlow club is Dave Burek, followed by outfielder Mike Sears. Catcher Scott Dunbar will be guiding his pitching staff this year consisting of Mike Giza, Jim Roberts, and David Bell. Giza is expected to be the prime starter.

Third baseman Gary Parella will possibly lead the team this season with his fine hitting, along with his perfect swing. Behind him is expected to be shortstop Steve Garrow.

PUTNAM VOCATIONAL: This school looks like one of this year's cellar dwellers, but owns a fine looking hurler to patch up their woes - Bob Fontaine. Fontaine's battery mate is Danny Monroe, the best prospect in the catching position that the Beavers have had in the past decade. The surprise of the team is ninth grader Ras Godbelt, who will serve as a

reliever.

The only main hitter on the team is second baseman Jose Zavala, who hauled a .390 average at the plate last spring.

SOUTH HADLEY: The Tigers look like the other prime contender this year for the cellar spot. The Tigers are young, but have only a handful returning from last season.

South Hadley's two starting pitchers, Ken Kientke and John Pettingill, are returning from last year's squad. The other mentionable on the team is Jeff Wojcik, who hit over .300 and played a variety of spots last spring.

The Valley Wheel is heating up, as the season progresses. Agawam and East Longmeadow are the defending division co-champions, each going for the full purse this year. It looks like at the moment, the race between the two teams would come down to an instant replay of last season.

The new school joining the Valley Wheel this year is Amherst. The Hurricanes are coming to the Wheel with the Hampshire League championship to their credit as of last season.

Schoolboy baseball is heading to an exciting season this spring, with the surprises and disappointments of regular season play ending up the week of May 28.

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Agawam Hockey Canada Bound

Plans for the Agawam Hockey Association's 5th Annual Canadian trip are now complete. Four bus loads of hockey players, coaches, family and friends of the Agawam Association will be leaving April 21st for a fun filled weekend in the beauti-

ful city of Montreal, Canada. This year the hockey players will be the guest of the St. Collette Hockey Association. The boys will stay in the homes of the Canadians while 65 rooms of the Hotel LaCite are reserved for the visiting Agawamites.

The weekend will consist of each team playing two games of hockey, making new friends and seeing the tourist's sights of Montreal.

A return goodwill trip by St. Collette to Agawam will be the following weekend.

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Lionettes Sign-ups

Girls wishing to try-out for the Agawam LIONETTES are advised that sign-ups will take place Friday, April 21, at 6 P.M. at the high school parking lot (near the rock).

The LIONETTES play nationally sanctioned, regional level, fast-pitch softball during June and July with championships in early August. Details are prepared for handout.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Resident of Agawam or attending an Agawam school.
 2. 16-18 years of age on Sept. 1, 1978.
 3. Two years organized softball experience.
- Note: Varsity players are eligible.

Sportsmens Corner

by Bill Chiba

The Agawam Bowmen Club, one of just a few only archery clubs in Massachusetts, elected new officers at its annual meeting. Pres. Bill Duncan, Feeding Hills; Vice Pres., Jim Blair, Chicopee; Secretary, Ed Dessereau, Feeding Hills; Treasurer, Jim Clayton, West Springfield. Elected to the Board of Directors were: Art Provost, Feeding Hills, Fred Caseillio, Feeding Hills; George Caron, Chicopee; and Jim Mac Namara, Springfield.

The club owns over 50 acres in Southwick, Mass., has a 28 target range with shooting stakes for tournament shooters, hunters and youngsters in two classes, Juniors to the age of 12 and Intermediates from 13 through 15. It is known throughout the state as a family club. Most of the activities are planned around this theme. Bowhunters are welcomed to join the club. Target butts are available for the bow hunter and information on shooting and the latest equipment on the market. The dues are very reasonable, \$10.00 per year and it includes your wife. Requests may be sent to P.O. Box 75, Feeding Hills, Mass. 01030.

Received a report that most of Congomond Lakes are free of ice. The Conn. anglers are taking advantage of our 12 month fishing deal. The Conn. season opened April 15. This should take off some of the pressure that is on the lakes at this writing.

Theodore B. Bampton, Deputy Commissioner of the Dept. of Environmental Protection, announced that rewards will again be offered in 1978 by the Conn. River Anadromous Fisheries Restoration Program for the return of adult Atlantic Salmon found in the Conn. River or its tributaries.

A reward of \$100.00 will be given for live adult salmon and \$25.00 for an adult salmon, which is found dead, killed in the process of cap-



Sacred Heart Hawks 8-10 Basketball. Back row, left to right: Paul Cavallo, Bryan Donabed, Jeff Swales, Jay Miller, Daris Nardi. Front row, left to right: Greg Barker, Todd Godek, Robbie Courture, Andy Lech. photo by Jack Devine

ture or does not survive long enough to be transferred to a DEP official. The rewards are available to fishermen who turn in their catch to representatives of the Conn. DEP. During 1977, seven Atlantic salmon are known to have returned to the Conn. River. Three were taken in the Salmon River by recreational fishermen, one in the Conn. River by a commercial shad fisherman and two at the Holyoke fish lift. A single salmon was found dead above the Holyoke fishway. Two of the fish taken in the Salmon River were turned in alive and earned the anglers the \$100.00 reward.

NRO Bill Maitland has been visiting clubs with firing ranges during the past few months and a number of sportsmen have wondered why. The reason, according to Hunter Safety Coordinator Sherm Howard, is that Maitland's explorations are part of a planning effort that may provide the Bay State with up to \$500,000 for improvements on those sportsmen club ranges. At this time, Congress is considering legislation which would tax firearm components and related equipment. This income would be allocated to the states -- one half for use under the Pittman-Robertson program and the other half for the hunter safety instruction program. Firing ranges used, even part time, for instructional purposes, could qualify for funds to make improvements on the range.

Most sportsmen's clubs have worked very cooperatively with the Hunter Safety Program without any financial aid or help in the investment they have made for public benefit.

Officer Maitland's work is aimed at determining the need. The Division of Law Enforcement, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston, Mass. 02202, would like to hear from any club that has a range that has not been checked.



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Mike "Snake" Riley, major league prospect.

Scouts Like "Snake"

by Dan Maruszczak Jr.

Last week, six big league scouts of the Major League Scouting Bureau were charmed by the Agawam fast-ball hurler, Mike "Snake" Riley. The scouts, representing five different teams, were all on hand to rate the "Snake".

Riley is a 6'7", 170 pound senior, who's arm is sought after by the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Philadelphia Phillies, the Baltimore Orioles, the St. Louis Cardinals, and the Seattle Mariners. The reason for the scurry of interest among the major clubs is the fact that Riley is the owner of a strong major-league fast-ball. An L.A. Dodger scout brought along a Jugs gun to measure Riley's speed and velocity, which turned out to be a blazing 85 miles per hour - faster than some present big league pitchers.

The Agawam season opener against Holyoke was postponed until June 2, so that the visiting scouts could have a look at the renowned flame-thrower. An alternate scrimmage was then played against Suffield High School, in order to give Riley an actual game surrounding.

Riley threw smoke for much of the game, as the "Snake" pitched four innings

of no-hit ball. He struck out nine of his last ten batters, with only an infield error to blemish the superb slate.

Adding to his accomplishments, Riley also lashed a triple to left. The scouts were particularly impressed with his performance, as it was the "Snake's" first outing of the season, with the weather on the cool side, aggravating his pitching arm.

At the April 10th game against Cathedral, Riley's pitching brought them the victory, as once again major league scouts were in attendance. This time Baltimore, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, and the Major League Scouting Bureau showed to examine the pro prospect.

The Dodger's scout with the Jugs machine was back again, this time recording Riley's speed at 86 M.P.H. The scouts estimated Riley throwing harder in the ninth than at the beginning of the game, when in the last he threw three straight K's.

The strikeouts were nothing new, as at this time last spring, Riley was hurling with a 2.12 earned run average. The excellent ERA was combined with his 6-6 record for his junior year.

Jr High Baseball

by Steve Berard

Well it looks like the Agawam Junior High School Baseball Team might do it again. Last year the team captured first place in the Valley Wheel Championship.

So far in their 78 season, they have achieved two victories in two games. In the first contest against Cathedral, Agawam's pitcher Dean Molta spun a four hitter, while Dave Lyne took care of the offense with a 2-run homer.

The next game played was against West Springfield at home. This produced a real

pitching duel, with West Side's pitcher hanging onto a no-hitter in the last inning, when Agawam suddenly started to stroke the baseball all over the field.

Scott Karam blasted a three run homer to give the team their second victory under new coach Michael Polanski. Craig Colcombe should be praised for pitching a remarkable one hitter. Consequently

Agawam's pitchers have allowed no runs and only five hits in their first two games.

Girls Softball

by Steve Berard

The girl's junior varsity softball team from Agawam High School are 1-1 so far in their non-league competition. The first game was against West Springfield. This contest showcased excellent pitching from Cathy Chase and superior all around hitting by Agawam, as they went on to crush West Side 26-5. In the second game, they played a tough team, Cathedral. It was a close and exciting contest as the Panthers just inched by the Brownies 11-10. Coach Toni Veronesi leads the team, as they will start off their regular season play against Ludlow.

Boys Track

by Steve Berard

Agawam High School's Track Team under the direction of Coach Young and Coach Moduleski came away victorious in last Mondays meet against Westfield. There were seventeen different track events held, with first place getting 5 points, second place 3 points and third place receiving 1 point. The final score of the match found Agawam with a convincing victory 92-53.

With upcoming meets against West Springfield and Mohawk, Agawam's tracksters will have to be in premium condition.



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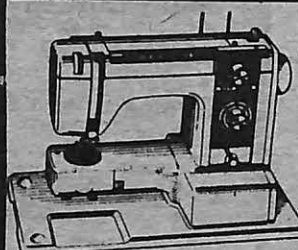
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Down to Earth

by Janet Cook



By now, I imagine you are well into the swing of spring. Spring clean up, that is. Whether we really want to or not, now is the time to get it all down. Last week I was talking about pruning roses. For those who have climbers, ramblers or shrub roses, this IS the very best time to prune. . . before all those leaves appear and hide the canes. Climbing hybrid teas and their relatives are pruned exactly like bush types except you should make an extra effort to leave as much healthy cane as possible. A true climber will bloom on last year's canes. Cut out winter-injured wood as lightly as possible. As the canes finish blooming, remove them at the base to encourage the strong new shoots that will grow from very low on the plant. Most climbers will bloom on old canes, but too much old wood reduces production of vigorous new shoots. On ramblers, as the blooms fade, remove a cane back to a strong basal bud; this bud will grow to make a replacement cane during the summer. If too many new canes appear, remove the crowded and weak ones while they are still small. You can treat shrub roses exactly like any flowering bush. Each spring, consider the removal of one or two of the oldest and woody canes in the center of the bush and remove crowded or weak new shoots. Remember to feed these handsome friends now for extra pleasure from their blossoms later on.

If you are not already an Iris lover as I am, I do suggest you try a clump or two in a sunny spot. The first week of June and after could be a highlight of your gardening season. Iris are very easy to grow and have a long bloom time because of all the new types introduced every year. They can begin to bloom in May and there are enough types available to give you blossoms all the way into September. Fertilize each spring with 5-10-10 for extra special blooms and also remember to feed again after the blossoms fade. The foliage of Iris is a grand back-

ground for annuals and low border plants all summer. Irises can be moved any time of the year, but the best time is when they are dormant. This is during July and August in this area.

Asparagus lovers rejoice! If you have wanted to plant an asparagus patch and just couldn't picture yourself digging a trench 18" deep to plant in, you don't have to. It is felt by the experts that 8-10" deep is sufficient. As root stocks will grow closer to the surface as the years grow by, this depth is enough to provide protection during cultivation or drought.

Asparagus harvests can be spread over a longer period by planting the crowns at different depths (1"-2" difference) when first set out. A new bed should not have spears cut the first year. When cutting spears, don't cut them below the soil level as this will decrease the yield. Feed the bed twice a year, in the very early spring and again after your harvest.

I have heard that lilacs take a couple of years to get going and then only bloom well every other year. This has not been my experience. Keep your bushes watered well in draught and feed them heavily. Lilacs like sweet soil and will not thrive in acidity. Work lime liberally into the soil before planting a new bush and if your soil is generally acid, top-dress each spring with lime. I dump most of my wood ashes from my wood stove around my bushes all winter for potash and I also apply superphosphate, (0-20-0) in the spring to promote bloom. A beautiful lilac bush is well worth a little effort.

Next week: prune your lilacs for more blooms, some very good ground covers, strawberry shortcuts and more.

KEEP SMILING!
JMC

Scuba Classes Offered at YMCA

Beginning April 27, 1978 a new Scuba Diving Program will begin at the Springfield YMCA.

The program will run for ten consecutive weeks ending June 29th. Mr. John Taupier will be instructing the class.

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